

The National *Falcon* News



David Mahon
Chattanooga, Tennessee



1965 Falcon

November 2000

The National Falcon News

THE FALCON CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the FALCON Automobile built by the Ford Motor Company from 1960 to 1970. The FCA was founded by Roy Sword in 1979 and is incorporated under Arkansas state law. Yearly dues to The Falcon Club of America are \$25.00 (\$30.00, payable in U.S. funds outside the United States) and are payable to: The Falcon Club of America, P.O. Box 113, Jacksonville, AR 72078-0113 ♦ **The Falcon News** is published monthly with information from its members. **All copy and advertising for The Falcon News should be sent to the Editor, Wendelyn Crosby, 16318 Riggs Rd., Stilwell, KS 66085.** Please mark "FCA" on outside of envelope. E-mail address: WCrosby63@earthlink.net. No phone calls for Falcon Club business. Copy must be received by the first of the month preceding date of issue.

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COVER: David Mahon, Chattanooga, Tennessee

David W. Mahon of Chattanooga, Tennessee has owned this 1965 Falcon for 4 or 5 years. He has been a member of the Falcon Club of America for a couple of years and he enjoys the club very much. His first new car was a 1965 Falcon, which he bought in November 1964. David says "While most of my friends bought Mustangs, I thought the Falcon was a sharper car, so I bought it. After about 5 years, I traded the car and was sorry I did." When he bought this Falcon, it was solid except for the floor pans, but needed a lot of TLC. He has been working on it for four years. He has stripped the body, installed all new interior, rebuilt the engine, transmission, re-chromed the bumpers, installed all new rubber and, of course, a new paint job. The interior is out of a early '90's modified Cougar. The engine is a performance modified 302 with C4 transmission. He installed disc brakes, seat belts with shoulder harnesses and air conditioning. Nice ride!

Do you have a photo of your Falcon that you think should be on the cover of The Falcon National News? Send it to the Editor along with a paragraph or two describing the car. Please include a self addressed STAMPED envelope if you want your photo returned.

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NOTE: The club will send a notice to each member the month before membership expires. Be sure to send your renewal in early to retain your original membership number. If you do not renew your membership within 90 days after it has expired, your membership number will be placed in the inactive file and will no longer be used by the club.



Regularly Scheduled Chapter Meetings

Alamo Chapter
2nd Sun - monthly
(210) 494-8205
Pig Stand
1508 Broadway,
San Antonio

Blue Ridge Chapter
3rd Sun - monthly
Greer, SC
(864) 879-1060

Capital City Chapter
3rd Sat. - monthly 5PM
Bob's BBQ, Round Rock TX
(512) 832-0544

Carolinas Chapter
1st Mon - monthly
(704) 735-5077
Houlihan's
Univ. Shopping Ctr.

**Central California
Falcons**
1st Tues. 7:00 PM,
Rusty's Pizza —Ming
Ave. and Ashe Rd.,
Bakersfield, CA, 805-
588-9468

**Early Falcon Car Club
of Victoria, Inc.**
1st Tue. 7:30 PM
Cafe Hotel, Melbourne
9369 1574

Founder's Chapter
2nd Sat - monthly
(501) 605-1370

Gateway Chapter
4th Sun - monthly
(314) 946-6047

Great Lakes Chapter
3rd Sun - bimonthly
(517) 849-7156

Hoosier Chapter
1st Sun - monthly
(317) 357-0235
Steak & Shake,
Speedway, IN 3 pm

Lone Star Chapter
3rd Sun - monthly
(903) 572-9593

Lost Coast Falcons
1st Wed. — 7PM
Round Table Pizza
Henderson Center
Eureka, CA
(707) 444-8407

Mid America Chapter
1st Fri - monthly
(660) 679-5636

Mile Hi Chapter
3rd Fri - monthly
(303) 857-9360

NE Texas Chapter
2nd Sat - monthly
(903) 759-6850

River City Chapter
2nd Tue - monthly
(916) 725-4110

Sonoma County
1st Thur - monthly
(707) 539-2860

Southeast Chapter
1st Sun - monthly
(770) 483-5249

Space City Chapter
2nd Tue - monthly
(281) 476-4688

Wheat State Chapter
1st Sat. even months
316-838-7487

Starting a New Chapter - If you want to explore the possibility of starting or reactivating an FCA Chapter in your area, contact Chapter Coordinator Jan Brown, 4147 WCR 31, Ft. Lupton, CO 80621 — 303-857-9360. Send a notice to the Editor of the Falcon News for publication in the next issue. List your correct address and phone for contact information.

ADDRESS CHANGING?

**NOT RECEIVING YOUR NEWSLETTER?
NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

Please address all membership concerns and questions to Ruby Throgmorton, Corresponding Secretary. Her address is on page 2 of every issue of the Falcon National News. Her email address: RubyRTFCA@aol.com

President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving!

Hope the cooler weather has been as refreshing to you as it has been to Carol and me. If you live in the North Central USA or Canada, some of you have already had some snow! Hopefully it's been enjoyable, not just a burden.

This years Regional Meets are now behind us and I will have to say, the cars just keep getting better and better with each and every one we attend. Whether it's an AACA beauty, a rest-o-mod, a custom, a daily driver, or just a plain fun Falcon, they are better than ever. Why is this?

- ♦ Vendor and suppliers are making the parts and supplies more readily available to all of us.
- ♦ Club members are sharing ideas and techniques.
- ♦ "How to" activities are being published about our beloved Falcons and their Ford cousins.
- ♦ The Internet has provided an additional avenue for the exchange of information and parts.
- ♦ Growth of the Falcon Club of America and Local Chapters.
- ♦ The size and coast-to-coast locations of your Falcon National Convention.
- ♦ The number and size of the Regional meets and All Ford shows.
- ♦ You, as Falcon Lovers, getting your Falcons on the road so others can enjoy them.
- ♦ Your active participation in your Local Chapter as well as the National Club

Thank you all, for your efforts in pulling your car(s) together, and tapping in to the various resources we have available. Keep them alive and make them better and better for all to enjoy!

I'd also like to thank the Suncoast Chapter and the Heart of Texas, Lone Star and Northeast Texas Chapters for all their hard work in putting on their Regionals. What can I say? — Super shows!

We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Happy Falconing,

Steve and Carol



CHAPTER NEWS



This old weigh station in Sitka, Kansas was the site of the Mile Hi Chapter's breakfast outing and cruise in the spring.

TREASURER'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR FCA FOR 1999-2000

Balance on hand June 30,1999 \$20,519.19

Income: July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

Includes dues, ads, insurance premiums from a chapter hosting an event, sales of Tech Tips booklet.

Reason for odd dollars is due to money exchanges.
\$93,247.25

Disbursements: July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

Includes Corresponding Secretary's account, bank charges, insurance premiums, petty cash, newsletter postage, other postage.

\$34,091.83

Printing and Newsletter Expenses

Includes editor's expenses, newsletter printing, and Kwik Kopy films.
\$35,671.54

Internet Expenses

Includes internet expenses, falconclub.com domain name.
\$425.00

Other Expenses

Includes officers' expenses, Corresponding Secretary wages, trophy samples and data transfer costs from Apple to PC.
\$ 8655.97

Total Expenses

\$78,844.34

Balance as of June 30,2000

\$34,922.10

Corresponding Secretary Account Balance as of June 30, 2000
\$3500.00

FCA SPECIAL ACCOUNT

Balance on July 1, 1999

\$7429.36

Income:

Loan payment from Club Store

\$ 1000.00

Donations- Carolina Chapter

\$ 1000.00

In Memory of Bob and Alice Hubler

\$100.00

Other Donation

\$10.00

Disbursements:

New computer

\$1686.78

New loan to Club Store

\$2500.00

Total Disbursements

\$4186.78

Balance on June 30,2000

\$5352.88

Web Watch

race-cars.com have a 1964 Alan Mann Rallye Sprint for sale for only \$90,000. <http://www.race-cars.com/carsales/ford/63ffxlss.htm>. Check it out but don't give them your credit card number unless you just gotta have a race car. Look for more information soon in Web Watch about the Falcon Racing Registry being formed by Ray Roberts and Ronnie Crawford of the Mile Hi Chapter. — Submitted by Ray Roberts

There is a great page about the Falcon National Meet in Sacramento on Total Control Products LLC's site: <http://www.totalcontrolproducts.com>. Click on Events, Past Events, Story and Photos.

<http://www.cruisinthe coast.com/main.htm> — This very cool page, complete with cruisin' music, details the Cruisin' the Coast Event on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. This year, the event was held October 20-21 (same weekend as the Texas Regional) but might be a good fall destination next year. Lots of different custom cars. Looks like a lot of fun! — Submitted by Bonnie Stringer

Do you have a restoration project on the web? Selling your Falcon? Found some interesting links? Send any Falcon related websites you've spotted to the Editor at wcrosby63@earthlink.net. And don't forget to keep track of our National Falcon site, there will be new things there regularly!

www.falconclub.com

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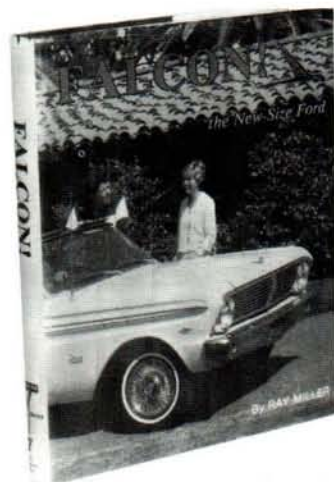
When restoring your car, it only makes good sense to do it correctly. This standard photo reference book will help you get it right!

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...First, and still the best, photo illustrated history of the 1960-1970 Ford Falcon.

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History of First Falcon

Danny Jo Puckett of Tuscumbia, Alabama was 16 years old when he bought his first Falcon in 1972. His brother, Jimmy co-signed with him and he used his child support to make the monthly loan payment. The Falcon was Danny Joe and wife Cathy's first car as a married couple.



Danny Joe & Cathy's 1974 wedding, way before restoration



BEFORE restoration — Danny Joe and son Jay



Custom modified interior

Class Winner!



Danny Joe, wife Cathy, sister-in-law Judy and brother Jimmy (co-signer)



Danny Joe playing the bush rod game

Danny Joe Puckett



AFTER restoration



Enroute to Charlotte Nationals in 1999, the first National Meet for the Falcon

Classified Ads

Email your classified ads to: wcrosby63@earthlink.net

NOTE: FCA Members receive two free ads per issue, in different categories. Be sure to include a price. Please limit your ads to 50 words or less. See guidelines below. Please use correct punctuation and capitalization to reduce editing time.

To Advertise: FCA members are entitled to two free ads per issue (limit 50 words per ad). Each ad must appear in a different section of the Classified Ads. The FCA will not be held responsible for errors (legitimate errors will be corrected in the next issue when requested). All ads for the classified section must include a members name, location and FCA # to be considered a free ad. All items advertised for sale must have a price. **Ads to run in more than one issue must be resubmitted each month.** Non FCA member ads are \$10.00 ea. Ads must follow the same guidelines as member ads. *Picture ads* will be an additional \$20.00 per picture. Payment must accompany the ad, with check payable to the Falcon Club of America. **All ads must be sent by mail or e-mail to the Editor, Wendelyn Crosby, 16318 Riggs Rd., Stilwell, KS 66085. ABSOLUTELY NO PHONE CALLS OR FAXES FOR ADS — NO EXCEPTIONS!** If you have Internet access, please e-mail ads to WCrosby63@earthlink.net. Ads must be received by the *first of the month for the following month's* issue. The FCA reserves the right to refuse advertising from any person or business.

NOTE: ALL ADS MUST INCLUDE YOUR LOCATION. IT'S GOOD TO KNOW WHAT TIME ZONE YOU'RE CALLING.

FALCONS FOR SALE

1961 Ford Econoline PU, needs rebuilt \$850. Denis Olmsted, 515-265-2764 Ankeny, IA

1961 Tudor customized by CA Custom Shop. Volvo blue ext., silver grey int., 3.8 V6 engine, alum. radiator w/ elec. fan, 5-speed close synchro trans, Mustang underneath, disc brakes, 15" Crager chrome wheels, flomaster exhaust, positraction bars, tilt-wheel, Escort GT bucket seats, wood grained door panels, Alpine FM/AM cassette w/ CD 12 stacker. Award winner at Nationals, eye catcher. Photos available. \$12,500. Dave Overstreet, 36228 Toku Payah, North Fork, CA 93643. 559-877-4315

1962 4 Door Sedan in our family since new needs good home. Six cyl Atmc 63,000 miles. All original. Blue exterior good - needs paint. Blue vinyl interior like new. Garaged until 1999, now stored covered outside. Started frequently but not highway driven recently. \$2,300/OBO. Wilmington, DE



1963 Sprint H.T., 260 V-8, P-5 Auto vinyl top - red/black. Total resto - \$12,500. Tom Healy 978-590-3801, e-mail: TomHealy39@mediaone.net. MA

1963 Falcon Futura - 2 door, HT; Primer - body work 90% done; 302 - C4 8 inch rearend; have a lot of new - old parts. All for \$3500 or best offer. Woody Seymour 734-981-6077. Canton, MI 48187

1963 Futura 2 dr hardtop 170 6 cylinder. Auto trans, factory air, new tires, shocks generator, headliner Southern car, no rust, excellent condition \$4500 OBO. Contact: Ron Nolan, Monroe, IA 318-343-2189

1963 2 door sports sedan \$1800. Call Dan at 727-797-6817. Florida

1963 Falcon Futura Convertible - White w/ gray interior. 170 6 cyl. 4spd. Bucket seats & console. Looks good. Runs fine. Needs brakes. Pictures and more info on Internet: <http://www.users.uswest.net/~bobbundy/> Only driven in summer, always garaged. \$3,000.00. Bob and Kerren Bundy. St. Paul, MN 55110 651-653-9202 or e-mail bobbundy@uswest.net.

1964 Falcon Station Wagon, 6 cylinder, 2 spd auto. Very solid, good running car. 46,000 original miles, \$2,000. 1970 1/2 Falcon 2dr sedan, original A/C car, 302 c4 trans. Motor and trans works well, pulled out of another car. Some rust, have sheet metal to repair, \$1,600. 1966 Falcon Ranchero, daily driven 302,C4. Runs good, \$2,200. Reasonable offers considered. Will A. Linn, 8045 S. Victoria, Haysville, KS 67060. 316-788-5864, evenings.

1964 Ford Falcon Futura 2 door hardtop-built 302-4 speed Hurst- P/S. This car is a mild custom rod that has won many trophies. GM blue with white and blue interior. New black tires, chrome rims with

Ford center caps and many more extras. No disappointments. \$9850. Vic Falcone, 3102 E. Old State Rd., Schenectady, NY 12303, 518-355-7756

1965 Ford Falcon 2 dr sedan, springtime yellow. Excellent body, no dents or scratch. All rechrome bumper's 200 CI engine, automatic trans. Clean interior, no rips \$3500. Call Jim Collette for more details, 718-347-2579 or e-mail: BlueModelCARS@aol.com. Floral Park, New York

'65 Falcon for sale. 3 speed. 89,000 miles on excellent motor. Great gas mileage. Needs TLC. Robin-egg blue with seven rims. Lots of good parts. \$300. Jim or Vicky, 402-489-3623, Lincoln, NE



1964 Falcon 2 Dr. Sedan 6cyl Auto 60000 original miles Runs great Good interior. Body needs finishing and paint. \$600 OBO Richard Brown, Windham, NH. 781-938-7033 or 603-893-3113

1966 Ranchero, must sell due to health problems. Completely restored to show condition including 289 engine and C4 transmission. Finished in original Ford

beautiful Emberglo paint. New tires including spare. Picture in the November '99 Falcon News. \$12,500 or reasonable offer. Merle Boughton, 214 S 1st St, Oskaloosa IA 52577, 515-673-7782



1967 Ford Econoline 8 door rare new 6 cyl. Motor & trans with O.D, 240 engine. Donald Talbot, 11430 Weldon St., New Prt Richey, FL 34654-2315

'61 Sport Futura	\$300
'61 Deluxe 2 Dr Wagon	\$600
'63 Deluxe 2 Dr Wagon	\$300
'63 Ranchero 289 Standard	\$300
'64 Futura H/T 6 Auto	\$600
'65 Futura 6 Auto	\$1000

'65 Futura H/T 289 Auto \$800
'65 Sedan Delivery 302 Auto \$2000
'66 Ranchero 289 Auto \$1200
Don Branson, 4097 Hwy T, Marthasville, MO 63357-2019. 636-228-4501 or jbranson@mail.win.org

Call "Joe B. Sales" in Golden, Colorado for that winter project Falcon or parts for same. We have about every year and body style from parts cars to restored or well preserved originals. Phone: 303-279-4202 E-Mail: tbotk@uswest.net

CARS FOR SALE

1953 Ford F-750 Firetruck. 11,000 miles runs very good, all lights and siren work. 12v conversion. \$2500. Charles Beasley-Eldorado Ar. 870-862-1086 or carr@seark.net

1973 Gran Torino 400-cid 9cyl, 6 passenger wagon. Medium copper metallic and chrome. Trailer towing package and roof rack. Original exterior and interior body has no rust or dents. Good condition. Original owner has shop manuals. Good

mechanical condition. \$3000. 18 foot Terry Trailer available \$3000. Chris Durham, 7B Laurie Ct, Novato CA 94947, 415-897-2283.

1962 Comet, 4 dr, 35M Actual miles, 170, 3 speed manual, No Rust, N. Carolina car, Excellent original paint and interior. Drive anywhere. \$2700. Doug, Minneapolis, Home: 763-420-3050, Cell: 612-834-9002, douga@rosemount.com

FALCONS WANTED

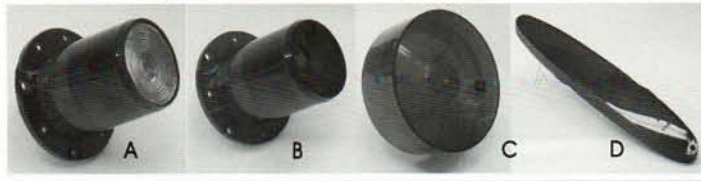
Still looking!!! '63 Hardtop, unrestored, straight and solid must be original V-8 car but condition of drive train is not important. I'm looking for a project car no big buck originals or restorations please - Thanks. Pictures would help, and will ship the right car if need be. Ron Johnson, 123 West Mountain Street, Worcester, MA 01606. (508) 852-0794 or Falcnparts@aol.com

Rust-free 1963 Falcon Convertible (prefer California Car) to restore. Must have 6 cyl eng and auto transmission. Prefer bench seats to buckets and hopefully lighter color combo. Please let me know if anyone has

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(C) #C2GY-13450-A 1962 Comet taillight lens. \$20.00ea
(D) #C1KF-13450-C 1960-61 Comet taillight lens. \$20.00ea

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(E) #C4DZ-13450-B 1964 Falcon taillight lens with authentic Ford logo molded-in. \$20.00ea
(F) #C2DZ-13450-A 1962 Falcon taillight lens with genuine Ford logo molded-into lens. \$20.00ea
(G) #C20B-13450-B 1963 Falcon taillight lens with backup lens hole. (Backup lens not included) \$10.00ea

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Classified Ads *cont.*

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1964/1965 Falcon V-8 Sprint or Futura.
Want to Build a DRAG/AFX car. Engine
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MUST be good solid body. Dennis
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89123 702-260-3025 or email:
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PARTS FOR SALE

Three 1961-62 Futura bucket seats,
padding and vinyl in bags (no plastic) \$70;
C2DB-16A104-A RH 10610 62-63 fender
emblem NOS. \$50; 1962-63 fender
emblem (rechromed) \$50 pair; seat belts
\$20 pair. 1964 bench seat \$75; ivy gold 2
dr. 1965 door panels \$55; 1964 2 dr. sedan
red door panels \$40 front and rear; 1968
door panels two tone blue, front and rear,
\$55, black \$45; wiper motors vacuum type
\$25; electric single speed \$30; electric two

speed \$40; long and short hardtop drip
rails \$40 and \$50 a pair; much more,
shipping extra. Archie, 727-797-6817.

1965 Falcon Ranchero Parts - R and L
doors complete, \$150 each, hood \$50 gas
tank \$25. Charles Noble in Des Moines, IA
515-288-6128 or highflyercun@aol.com.

1964 Falcon 4 dr Parts - 4 doors \$75 each;
rear axle \$75; 6 cyl engine auto trans, one
unit to be rebuilt \$300 Charles Noble in
Des Moines, IA 515-288-6128 or
highflyercun@aol.com

All NOS - '62 Futura front fender "spear"
(LH) - \$110; '62-'63 front fender top
ornament (RH) - \$90; '60-'62 Back-up
light kit - \$100; '63 Futura/Sprint rear
quarter moldings - \$90 ea.; '63 Futura/
Sprint door moldings - \$80 ea.; '60 and up
"13 accessory wheel trim rings (set of 5)
boxed - \$100; '60 and up Sedan inside rear
view mirror assy. - \$45; '63 260

V-8 emblems (not Sprint) - \$90 pr. '63 front
stone deflector (behind bumper)
- \$55. '60-'62 back-up lenses only - \$45 pr.
'62 headlamp door (RH) has minor
shelf wear - \$40. All parts are NOS Ford
most in original packaging, shipping is
extra. Ron Johnson, 123 West Mountain St,
Worcester, MA 01606. 508-852-0794 or
Falconparts@aol.com

For Sale: 1965 Falcon Futura 289 4spd
rolling rust free body tub with body side
trim \$1950, with good body panels \$2450;
with new front suspension and disc brake
set-up \$2950; one pair of new fiberglass
fenders \$200; one pair of fiberglass doors
\$200; Mexican 302 block needs one sleeve
\$175; small block Lakewood blow proof
bellhousing \$125; 4 Weld Wheel Drag Star
wheels 15 x 8 never used \$500; Monte
Carlo Falcon NOS fiberglass trunk lid
\$1500; 4 chrome adjustable Carrera shocks
like new \$195; front and back windshield
glass \$250; front and rear rechromed

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Heater Fan Motors \$20 ea., horns small and large \$25 a pair or \$15 ea.; 1960-66 parking housings \$15 ea, \$25 a pair; 1960-65 headlite buckets \$15 ea or \$25 a pair;

sunvisors, conv. \$40 pair, hardtop \$30 pair, sedan \$20 pair; wiper arms \$15 each. Bench front seat \$70; rear wagon seat padding red and blue \$40 a pair; 1960-63 tailgate with holes for backup lights \$70; rechromed 1964-65 outside door handles \$25 each; underdash wiring \$35 each. Much more. Call Archie or Dan at 727-797-6817.

NOS Falcon Parts - Grilles : 1960 - \$135, 1961 (scratched) - \$100, 1962- \$300, 1965 - \$550, 1967 - \$135, 1968-9 - \$125; Lower Control Arm - 1960-62 \$85; After Market Upper Ball Joints - 3 hole 1960-62 - \$40 pair; 1968 Jack Assy - \$50. All parts plus postage & handling. Howie, 860-872-6810, 6 - 10 pm EST. Vernon, CT

1961 automatic transmission from low mileage 6 cylinder car - \$150. Glenn Murphy 301-774-7727, Rockville, MD.

1960-63 Full Futura 13" hubcaps \$40 set; 1964 13" full hubcaps \$35 set, 14" \$50 set;

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USED FALCON PARTS: 1963 Bucket seats (need recovering) \$275. will fit 1964 & 65, 1964 Sprint Panel \$150., tailgate trim \$75., 1963 console very good condition \$160., 1 copy of the Shop Tips by Ford as seen in the Dec. issue of the National Falcon News \$45., 260, 289, 302 steel and aluminum 4-barrel intakes starting at \$175. and up; 64-65 taillight assembly (some with lens) \$25. pr.; 64 chevrons \$25./pr; aluminum bellhousings (4-spd.), 5-bolt and 6-bolt \$65. ea; 63, 64, 65 C-4 Automatic bell housing \$125; 63-64 generator

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Please contact: Mike Jarmuz 9263 N.
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vfalcon64@aol.com 3102 E. Old State Rd.,
Schenectady, NY 12303.

Looking for cluster gear and second gear
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Wheel covers wanted for 1966 Ford
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MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

I need instructions and a parts list on how
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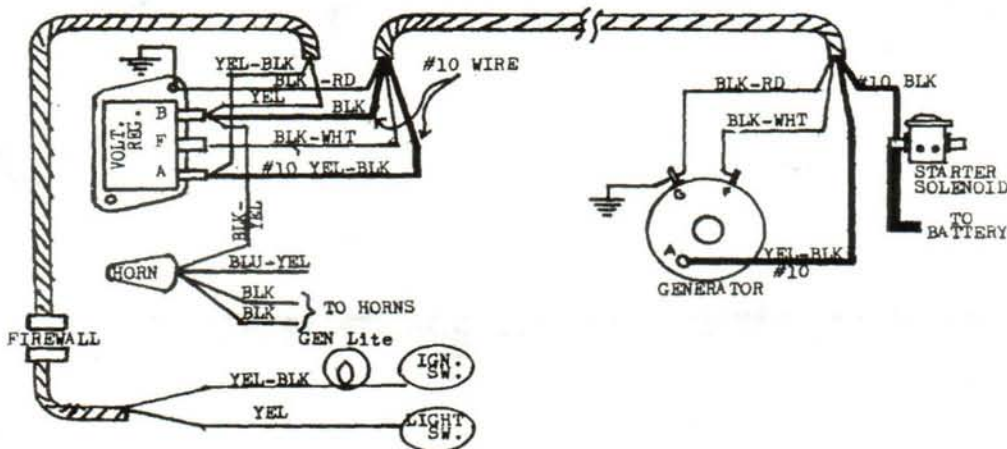
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Tech Section — Generator to Alternator Conversion

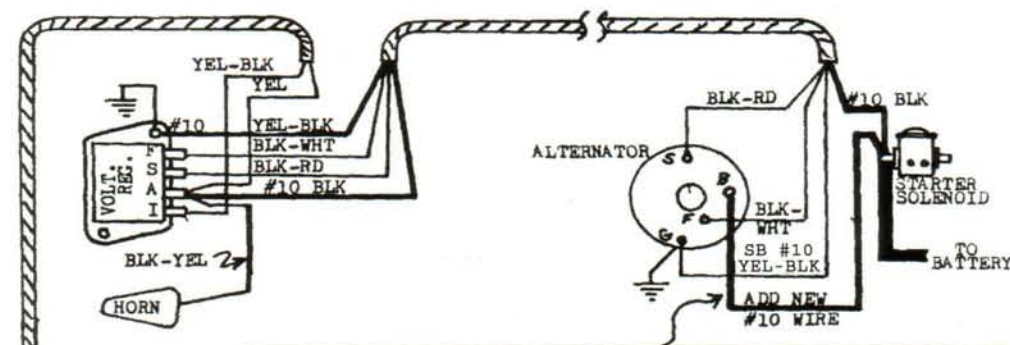
For those of you interested in updating your Falcon to a better electrical system, we have provided you with the wiring changes necessary to convert your old style generator system to a newer alternator system. This can be done using the existing wiring harness and requires only obtaining the alternator unit itself, a voltage regulator for use with any late model Ford product, the alternator mounting bracket pieces, and the correct fan belt.

You will need some #10 wire and some assorted electrical terminal ends. The Ford wiring harnesses use a four-pronged plastic connector onto the voltage regulator, which is a nice touch, but you can make excellent connections using four female spade connectors. Mount the regulator in the same location, drilling new mounting holes. Use the existing wiring as shown in the drawing.

EXISTING GENERATOR WIRING



MODIFIED ALTERNATOR WIRING



Add this #10 wire directly to solenoid if only the stock GEN light will be used. If an add-on Ammeter is to be used in addition to the GEN light, run #10 wire from Alternator into Ammeter and then to solenoid.

If Ammeter is to be used without GEN light, do as above with #10 wire, then disconnect the BLK-RD Starter wire from the Alternator and tape it off. Do the same with the YEL-BLK wire at 'I' terminal of Regulator.

Originally from the October 1983 Falconer. Reprinted in the Desert Flyer, newsletter of the Arizona Chapter.

Send your Tech Tips, Photos and Diagrams to the Editor at the address on page 2.

14 Years Experience with a 1963½ Falcon

Photos and article by Ted Doskaris

Evolutionary History & Description — Chassis

Part II — Continued from October 2000 Issue

- 2) Chassis: Heavy duty front & rear springs; Manual Front Disc brakes (1965 4 piston caliper Mustang type); Dual master brake cylinder of the 1968 Mustang type; C4 automatic 3 speed "select shift" transmission rebuilt & slightly modified (trans from a 1972 V8 Mustang); Floor shifter from a 1972 Pinto. The only significant non-Ford item is the Chrysler rear axle assembly with 8 ¾ inch 3.23 ratio gear set (from a 1969 Plymouth Barracuda). The axle flanges had been re-drilled from the original 5 stud on 4 inch dia. centers to Ford's 5 on 4 ½ inch centers. Drive shaft cut to length and balanced. Wheels are 15 inch, 6 inch wide from a 1972 Lincoln Mk. 4, Tires = 205R 65 X 15. Also, a custom made (by Al Fitting) impact deflection "U" bar for the fuel tank mounted within the trunk on the top perimeter above the tank. The radiator is of the 4 core "desert cooler" type with a '65 Mustang fan shroud that is augmented with an independently mounted transmission oil cooler. In order to facilitate the engine installation with stock "Cleveland" type cast iron exhaust manifolds, the spring



Ted's Falcon at the Sacramento 2000 National Show

towers' (center area only) motor mount flaring was trimmed and recovered approximately ¾ inch from the tower wall surface down to motor mount area. Al Fitting also fabricated stainless steel heat shields that were placed between the engine motor mounts and block. For easy steering box lubrication, he also incorporated an extension tube from the box to a location near the master brake cylinder. I installed a power antenna many years ago to allow for car cover use.

The Falcon Fuel Tank



Impact Deflection Bar within trunk, U section near fuel filler neck.



Impact Deflection Bar side view, including attaching leg.

A safety enhancement for the Falcon's drop-in fuel tank was devised using an **Impact Deflection Bar** as an alternative to using some fashion of a fuel tank or fuel spill shield.

I have owned my '63 Falcon V8 hardtop since 1964. This car preceded the Mustang and is essentially the same design under its skin as the first generation Mustangs from which they were structurally and mechanically based. (Undoubtedly, there were millions of such Falcons and related Mercury Comets made.) Consequently, pre 1966, model year Falcons have the drop-in type fuel tanks like the Mustangs at issue. Strangely, I have yet to come across a report about these Falcons — or related Mercury Comets — with respect to the reported fuel tank dangers associated with these Mustangs in the event of rear end collisions. This is not to say that such accidents may not have happened to Falcons or Comets!

To this end, I had consulted with a very experienced automotive mechanic, customizer and metal fabricator that I have known for 30+ years, (Al Fitting, Al's Automotive, Grass Valley,

CA.). We took a different approach to minimize the potential that the fuel tank may distort enough to rupture if the vehicle were in a rear end collision. Al constructed essentially a horizontal roll bar out of 0.125 inch wall thick tubing that he formed in his hydraulic bender. The bar is formed in a U shape such that when installed within the trunk compartment, it is placed horizontally on top of (and surrounds 3 sides of) the outer perimeter of the fuel tank. The middle U section is located between fuel filler neck and gas cap back panel. The bar is fastened with a large bolt at each end of the U legs to the chassis where it is double wall thickness. The U leg ends were made tapered with an end plate (welded thereto) so as to match the trunk floor slope where the attachment bolts pass through both plate and trunk floor. The prevention approach idea here is to help avoid the tank from being sheared at its mounting flange area and/or being pierced by the fuel filler neck by distributing impact forces away from the tank should a rear end accident occur. The dollar cost to me of doing this was under \$200.00 and seemed to be a reasonable thing to do.

Ted Doskaris has owned his 1963½ Falcon Futura Hardtop since 1964. His FCA # is #03816.